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Letter dated 24 September 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to our previous communications (A/47/536-S/24667, A/47/856-S/25063 and A/47/999-S/26288) concerning the demographic structure of the Cypriot Communities and the systematic and relentless implantation of settlers from mainland Turkey in the occupied areas of Cyprus, and the statement circulated by the Government of Turkey (A/47/1007-S/26369) in an effort to divert public opinion from their flagrant violations. The evidence of this policy is contained in the above documents and I am sure that the international community needs no further proof of this persistent disregard and defiance of international legality.

At this stage, my delegation would confine itself only to making available extracts from the Turkish Cypriot press on this issue to reveal the extent of the colonization of Cyprus and the legitimate concern express by the Turkish Cypriots themselves, who are also victims of such a distortion of the demographic structure of the occupied part of Cyprus.

1. Kibris - 6 August 1993

"The occupying regime has lifted the use of 'entry cards' for those who travel from Turkey to the occupied area and, therefore, the regime cannot know the purpose of travellers in the occupied area." The paper recalls that the use of passports was lifted in the past and now the regime lifted the "entry cards" as well in order to "ease travelling" to the occupied area.

In a speech he made in the occupied village of Peristeronari, "the CLP leader Mustafa Akinci said that a robbery takes place every five hours in the occupied area". He added that "this was a result of the abolition of passport control. Many people arrive in the occupied area for a few days for robberies or thefts."

The paper says that, "according to the 'Immigration Department' of the occupying regime, only the numbers of those entering are kept, but no details

regarding the travellers. During the first six months of the year, 185,926 people arrived in the occupied area, of whom 66.1 per cent were citizens of Turkey, 19.28 per cent 'citizens' of the occupying regime, 6.27 per cent British and the rest 8.35 per cent from various countries. During the same period, 188,900 persons left the occupied area. The majority of them, 124,436 were citizens of Turkey, 37,646 were 'citizens' of the pseudostate, 11,097 were British and 15,721 from other countries. Nobody knows the purpose of the visit of anyone of these people" concludes Kibris.

2. Yeniduzen - 12 August 1993

"Ozker Ozgur on changing the demographic structure of the occupied area

"Two German Professors, Dr. Hanshorg Brey and Dr. Gunther Heinritz, conducted research about the demographic structure of north Cyprus. They collected their findings under the title 'Population movement in Cyprus in the light of statistical distortions'.

Kutlu Adali, in his corner in Yeniduzen, published excerpts from this article translated by Dr. Ahmet An.

"The German scientists calculated that the population increase in north Cyprus between 1974-1990 was 39.6-48.4 per cent. This unnatural population increase has been justified by former 'TRNC Foreign Minister' Vedat Celik by saying that it was due to the repatriation of the Turkish Cypriots living in Britain and other countries.

"However, according to statistical figures provided by the Police General Directorate, published in Yeniduzen (15 February 1989), 18,862 people left Cyprus between 1974-1977. And the number of Turkish Cypriots who emigrated between 1974-1989 is 28,184. So the questions is not, as Vedat Celik said, the return of Turkish Cypriots, but their escape from the island.

"Those who rule north Cyprus say that they do not know the number of Turkish Cypriots that left abroad ...

"According to the 1990 statistics, the population in north Cyprus is given as 171,469. Then this figure was corrected an dropped to 161,386. This is the reason how the population growth between 1974-1990 is calculated as 39.6-48.4 per cent. Between 1960-1990, the population growth of the Turkish Cypriots, if compared to that of the Greek Cypriots, should be, in 1975, 100,600 and, in 1990, 106,000. If one considers the high birth rate given by official statistics then this figure should be 100,900.

"According to these calculations in 1990, there were 65,500-70,600 foreigners in north Cyprus. Since 1990, three years have passed. How many Turkish Cypriots left the island during this time?

"What is the number that arrived during this time?

"How many of them received citizenship?

"How many of them will receive citizenship?

"Migration is a continuing process. People migrate from their country to another one for their living. One should not criticize these people who, in search for a living, leave their country. However, the dimensions of the action is different if population movement is being done with political considerations aimed at changing the demographic structure and the identity of a community.

"According to the German scientists, the demographic policy as regards the north Cyprus aims at the following: increasing the bargaining power at the intercommunal talks. Weakening the friendship ties existing between the two communities. To weaken the Turkish Cypriot community's contemporary values and strengthen the conservatives.

"We are not in a position to know how sound or right the conclusions drawn by the German scientists are. However, the concrete fact is that the Turkish Cypriot community with its population and identity has been put into the annihilation process.

"The Turks who arrived in 1975 are complaining as well about the state of affairs prevailing. The process forces their children as well to emigrate. In north Cyprus, which has turned into a place free for all, a chaotic situation exists.

"How and on whom will you apply, even if you enact the most democratic election law, in this chaotic situation.

"It is as important to democratize the communal structure and control of the population as democratizing the election law.

"It is not possible to talk about a democratic election before correcting the weak structure, which is open to foreign intervention and there is no control of arrivals and departures.

"This is a must. Due attention should be paid by those who favour a democratic election."

Kutlu Adali, writing in Yeniduzen (12 September 1993) about the settlers and their role in "elections", says that:

"The greatest and most effective intervention during the elections come from the tens of thousands of people brought from Turkey and settled in north Cyprus with the right to elect and to be elected. Against this incredible reality, people still sit down and conduct early election negotiations! In every election held here, the population transferred from Turkey, with an order from Ankara, always sided with the Denktash-NUP wing. Even if they resented the Denktash-NUP administration, those tens of thousands of people were forced to cast their votes in favour of the Denktash-NUP wing.

"If again during the coming months or years, whether normal or early elections are held, this very effective and oppressive intervention will

demonstrate its power again. It will give a deadly blow to democratic developments of the Cypriots. Especially, it will be tantamount to heading for an election without knowing what will be the pros and the cons of an early election in a country where the exact number of the mainland settlers is unknown.

"Ankara, soldiers and Denktash since 1974 are knowingly staging this play. Their aim and intention is, with a so-called democracy shroud, to keep Denktash and the people around him in the administration. they give 5-10 seats to the opposition - this to save the day.

"This play has been staged knowingly from the very beginning. Since Turkey never intends to take back these settlers, they will not only have an effective intervention in the elections, but in deciding the future of Cyprus as well. They will direct our so-called democracy. No one has considered such a guarantorship from the guarantor Turkey."

3. Ortam - 16 August 1993

According to Ortam, "Denktash's illegal regime continues to provide identity cards to mainland Turks. Between 10 and 12 August 1993, 500 'Identity Papers' were issued to mainland Turks".

Ortam stresses that, "according to reliable sources, 250 identity cards are issued each day, and that, as the so-called early elections are getting nearer, the illegal regime is speeding up the issue of the 'Identity Cards'." The paper says that, "on 27 July 1993, the Identity Cards serial number was 189,500, on 10 August this reached 189,900 and, on 12 August 1993, it was 190,200".

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 54, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alecos SHAMBOS
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of the Republic of Cyprus
to the United Nations